



Spark Gap

Vol. 35, Issue 2, February 2019 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-five years*

On Our MARC:

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Please mark your calendar for March 12th, 2019, we have a date for Johnson County Storm Spotter Weather Training. It will start at 7pm and will be held at the Johnson County Sheriff's Department Training Facility located at 1061 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Please take the drive from the Sheriff's Department parking lot to the east of the jail, drive through the gates and take the first left that will lead to the parking lot for the training facility. The entrance to the building is on the south side.

Also, mark your calendar for March 16th to attend our monthly meeting. The Club will be 35 years young!!! Bruce is working on details and getting things together to hold a special event for the day. More information to come at the meeting from Bruce.

I am still looking for people to join the PIO Team and IT Team. Rusty resigned at the end of December from the PIO and the IT team. If interested, please let me know.

With the New Year, Club dues are due. Please see Ron, K9THR, about getting your dues current for 2019.

See you Saturday and the coffee will be on.

Jacki - K16QOG

President



Birthdays for the month of February:

NC9ULB - Jeff Allen

ND9C - Steve Curtis

N9SIU - Bob LaGrange

KC9ZMU - Fred Robertson

K9THR - Ron Schuetz

Amateur radio (illegally) aiding yacht racers

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Golden Globe Race (<https://goldengloberace.com>), a 30,000 mile, non-stop solo yacht race to celebrate Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation. There are 18 sailors in the race, which started on July 1, 2018 from Les Sables-D'Olonne, France.

Amateur radio is at the heart of the latest controversy surrounding the race. *Scuttlebutt Sailing News* reported (<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/maintaining-information-barrier/>) on January 21, 2019 (day 205 of the race):

“Sailors have been making use of the Amateur Radio net (ham radio) for decades, and while National telecommunication authorities have often turned a deaf ear to unlicensed operators using made-up call signs while at sea, warnings from a National regulator to Golden Globe Race skippers has created intrigue into an exciting finale for race leaders.

“Modern navigation and routing tools are restricted from use in the 2018-19 contest, limiting GGR skippers to the type of equipment available for the inaugural Sunday Times Golden Globe solo non-stop round the world race in 1968-69. That includes Amateur Radio.

“The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing. [[Neither Van den Heede or Slats have valid amateur radio licenses... Dan]]

“Said the warning, 'You use an amateur call sign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur call sign then I urge you to present it.'”

As a result of this warning, Slats is considering dropping out of the race, even though the race is nearly complete. *Yachting Monthly* reports (<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/golden-globe-race/golden-globe-race-slats-considers-quitting-comms-row-68574>):

“Mark Slats, who is less than 50 miles from Golden Globe Race leader Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, has announced he is thinking about retiring from the race after being banned from broadcasting on the Ham Radio Net.

“Race organizers said the Dutch skipper does not have the required license, and has been warned by the Dutch authorities to stop broadcasting, which has left him unable to communicate with his shore team.

“Under the rules of the race, all of the entrants are able to use this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, but, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by national and international regulations.”

It's not only the yachters that are flouting the rules, it's the amateur radio operators who are communicating with them. According to *Yachting Monthly*, OFCOM, the UK regulator issued the following warning:

“Fair warning both to unregistered GGR skippers and to legitimate Ham radio operators communicating with them. In Britain, the Ham Radio net is controlled by OFCOM, which recently revoked more than 500 licenses for non-compliance. This includes communicating with unregistered Ham radio operators. The maximum penalty is 6 months in prison, a £5,000 fine and loss of their license.”

This is a fascinating story, and I wish that I'd found out about this sooner. It would be interesting to listen in on some of these communications. One question I have is why these guys failed to obtain a valid amateur radio license? The Golden Globe Radio website notes, “[The race] will be sailed under the auspices of the Royal Nomuka Yacht Club in the Kingdom of Tonga. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a Ulukalala is Patron of the Race.” They probably could have issued valid amateur radio licenses to all the racers.

If any of you have heard the communications or know any more about the technical details, I'd love to hear from you.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). When he's not think about operating maritime mobile, you'll find him on 30m, 40m, and 80m.

CLUB DUES FOR 2019

It is that time of year for your dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The dues are still \$18.00 and they have remained that amount for many years. Please check out the MARC website and you may pay your dues via PayPal. This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2019.

**Please see Ron Scheutz, K9THR
M.A.R.C. Treasurer**

Winter Field Day 2019

In case you were snowed under, Winter Field Day 2019 has passed as we head for June and ARRL Field Day 2019. Field Day is not just for summertime anymore. Winter Field Day, sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) was held over the January 28-29 weekend. It was a good time to prep for ARRL Field Day this summer. The annual event's stated purpose is to encourage emergency operating preparedness in the winter, but it's also an excuse to get out of the house and enjoy the great outdoors. Of course, that's hard to take when Indiana temps are in the teens.

According to the WFDA, getting ready for emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that take place each June during ARRL Field Day. Disasters don't always look at the calendar before disrupting life and normal communications. It's a great way to beat cabin fever.

The event got its start in 2007. The contest is not restricted to North America. Amateur Radio operators around the world are invited to participate. There are three entry categories — indoor, outdoor, and home. The rules are similar to those for ARRL Field Day. Operations take place on all HF bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters.

A quick club survey found a handful of participants operating from their home QTH during the two day event. Bruce-K9ICP logged 12 contacts on 20 and 40 meters. John-W9YD logged 11 contacts on 40 meters. Jack-W8ISH only snagged 14 contacts using 20 and 40 meters. He got bonus points for operating on battery power.

Topping the list of casual club operators is Rudy-KN9C who logged 52 contacts on 40 meters. As a group they collectively scored 89 contacts on behalf of the Mid-State ARC. Everyone reported very noisy conditions on both bands with some reaching 10 over 9 on the signal meter. Jack said his digital noise reduction filter (DNR) made it possible to hear distant stations. If he could hear them he could work them. Jack was using a home-brewed 20 meter dipole and a set of 40 meter ham sticks in his attic. Rudy's multi band backyard vertical gave him a leg up on hearing the contest stations. Bruce and John reported having limited success using their dipole antennas.

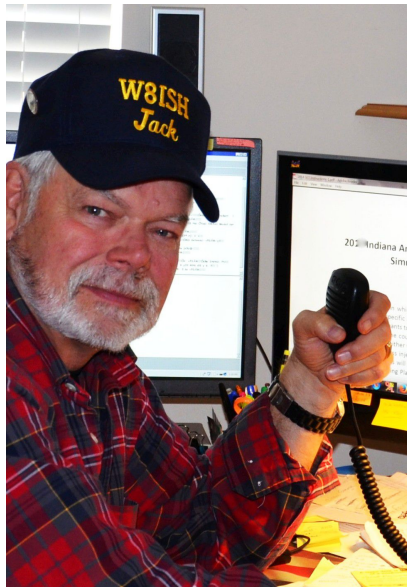
Winter Field Day rules allowed for contacts on VHF and UHF plus satellite. That's something Technician class operator should consider when WFD comes around in January 2020.

..... Jack w8ish

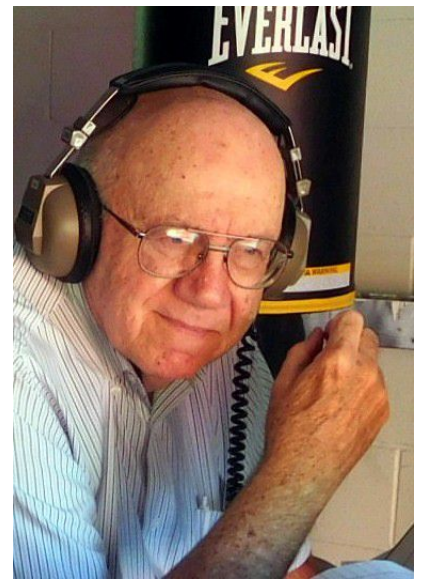
Pictures Jack-W8ISH



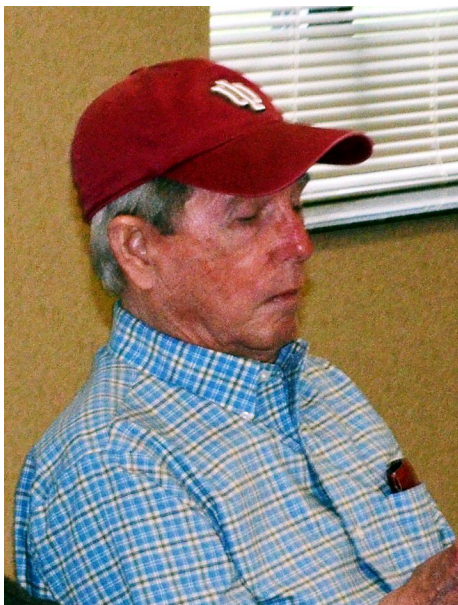
Bruce-K9ICP



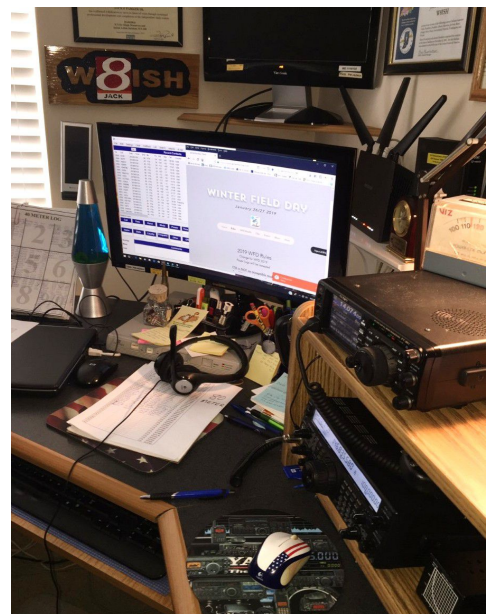
Jack-W8ISH



John- W9YD



Rudy - K9NC



Jack - W8ISH Radios for WFD



Winter Field Day 2019

New Volunteer Monitor Program

ARRL is getting underway with the development phase of the new Volunteer Monitor program and has contracted with former Atlantic Division Vice Director Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to oversee the development and implementation of the program, which replaces the Official Observers program. Hollingsworth, a retired Federal Communications Commission (FCC) enforcement official, has resigned his vice directorship in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

“I am grateful for the Atlantic Division ARRL members supporting me, but I think I can better serve the Atlantic Division, and all ARRL divisions, by working in the Volunteer Monitors program,” Hollingsworth said in his resignation letter.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said that Hollingsworth is the ideal person to lead the ARRL's efforts in the development and implementation of this joint program with the FCC. “I support Riley's decision to concentrate his efforts on this very valuable project on behalf of the ARRL,” said Roderick. (Details on appointment of a new vice director for the Atlantic Division are still to be determined.)

The new Volunteer Monitors program, which was approved by the ARRL Board in July 2018, is a program of the ARRL in cooperation with the FCC in which volunteers trained and vetted by the ARRL will monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC by the ARRL for action in accordance with guidelines established by the FCC. The intent of this program is to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands. It was proposed by the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program – Development, Solicitation and Training, and Implementation. The Development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining the ARRL's and FCC's requirements and needs as part of the program, writing a job description for the volunteer manager position, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

The Solicitation and Training phase will involve identifying the geographic locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications and screening applicants. Current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors (VMs). The ARRL Board continues to express its appreciation for the OOs and their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

The Implementation phase of the program will involve having the volunteers providing field reports and ARRL staff providing guidance to the volunteers to ensure that the information collected meets FCC requirements. In addition, there will be continuing education provided to the volunteers.

Hollingsworth has committed to FCC and ARRL officials to ensure the adequacy of training for the new positions, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement actions, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC.

ARRL officials estimate that it will take 9 to 12 months for the first Volunteer Monitors to begin filing their reports.

(end of excerpt from the ARRL Letter 2/14/19)

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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

P.S. 10-49

This at one time was an actual product. (ca 1951)

FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio-Related Petition for Rule Making

The FCC has invited public comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11826) from an Ohio radio amateur seeking to amend the Part 97 station identification rules to better accommodate and simplify station identification during an emergency net, drill, or activation. ARRL member Robert A. Dukish, KK8DX, filed the petition in December, and the FCC put it on public notice this week. Dukish seeks a change to Section 97.119(a) of the rules, which requires an amateur station to transmit its "assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."

He noted that during emergency networks, requiring participating stations -- often portable -- to use their assigned call signs during each transmission could prove "burdensome and can hinder the flow of emergency traffic on the channel."

Specifically, he is suggesting that a simple approach would be to permit the net control station or other designated participant to announce from a single point the call signs of every station taking part in the net or exercise, when tactical call signs often are in use, at 10-minute intervals, using automatic CW identification.



Dukish suggested amending Section 97.119(a) to add, "except during a local emergency network activation or drill," and providing that in such situations, a net control or designations station would be "authorized to announce all participating stations' assigned call signs at no more than 10-minute intervals while the net is in progress." The amendment would provide that participating stations "be within a 50-mile distance of the identifying station, and each individual station must self-identify by transmitting its assigned call sign at least once per hour." CW transmission could be no faster than 25 WPM if sent automatically to satisfy the suggested amendment.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing Service.



36th Annual Columbus Indiana Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

Start Date: 04/06/2019

End Date: 04/06/2019

Location: Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds

750 West 200 South

Columbus, IN 47201

Website: <http://carcnet.net>

Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

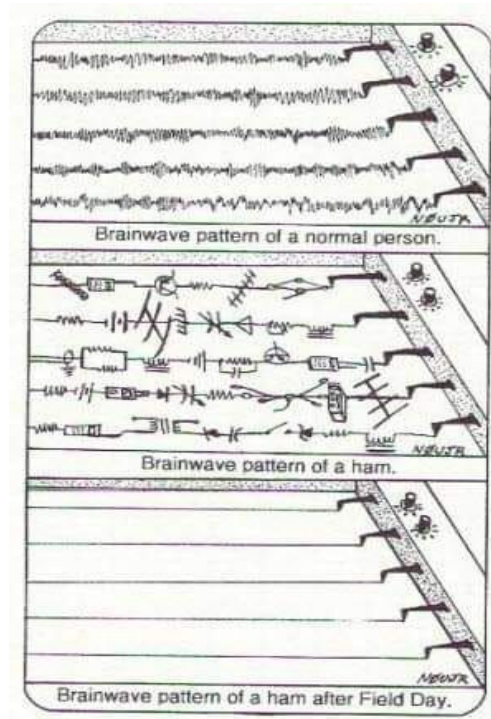
Talk-In: 146.790 (PL 103.5)

Public Contact: Matthew Bruner , KC9BWO

325 Robbins Street Hope, IN 47246

Phone: 812-375-4860

Email: kc9bwo@att.net



UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

02/16/2019 -- 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

03/12/2019 -- 1900 Johnson Co. Storm Spotter Training

Johnson County Sheriff's Dept. Training Facility Franklin, IN 46131.

03/16/2019 -- 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

04/06/2019 – Bartholomew County Fairgrounds Columbus, IN 47201

04/20/2019 -- 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

05/18/2019 -- 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

05/17,18 ,19/2019 – Dayton Hamvention, Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia,OH

06/15/2019 -- 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.



ARRL's Emergency Preparedness Manager is stepping down. Mike Corey, KI1U, has announced that he will depart ARRL on February 15 to pursue another career opportunity. He has been part of the ARRL staff since 2010. "Mike has accomplished much during his 9 years on the job, including expanding the Ham Aid program, national disaster response, working with our national partners, and, most recently, the rollout of ARES Connect," said ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX. The Headquarters team will miss Mike's friendly personality and wishes him well in his pursuits. As Mike is an active ham, there is a good chance we will run into

him on the air. As part of the overall restructuring at ARRL Headquarters, ARRL management will take the opportunity to examine the administration of the emergency preparedness program.

..... ARRL News February 2019



MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Bill Jackson – KM6CRL
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Ron Scheutz – K9THR
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month



Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.